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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/074,191	02/12/2002	John A. Szymbor	EH-10586	4463
30188	7590	06/19/2006	EXAMINER	
PRATT & WHITNEY			PICKARD, ALISON K	
400 MAIN STREET				
MAIL STOP: 132-13			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
EAST HARTFORD, CT 06108				3673

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/074,191	SZYMBOR ET AL.
	Examiner Alison K. Pickard	Art Unit 3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 12,13,15-20,24-30,32-35 and 37-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 12,13,15-20,24-30,32-35 and 37-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 43 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 43, line 5, "said plurality of bristles" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 12, 13, 15-20, 32-35, and 38-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Howe.

Howe discloses a method and a brush seal comprising arranging a plurality of tufts 11 each having a bead 10 at one end within a fixture 15 in a skewed fashion and so that a portion (at line 11 in figures 4 or 5) of the bristles forming the tufts with the beads projects to form an exposed portion. The exposed ends are then clamped with plates and welded 18. The brush seal

is a unitary structure comprised of a weld joint, bristles, and plates. (Note: the limitation in claim 32 requiring the elements to be welded together at a single time is a process limitation in a product claim and is given little weight.)

5. Claims 12, 13, 15-20, 32-35, and 38-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoffmueller (6,062,463).

Hoffmueller discloses a method and brush seal comprising a plurality of tufts each having a bead 40 or 43 at one end within a fixture in a skewed fashion. The beaded portion of the tufts forms an exposed end in recess 31. The exposed end and plates 30 are then welded together in that the coating on the bead can be solder.

6. Claims 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Atkinson.

Atkinson discloses a method of making a brush seal comprising providing discrete plates 69, 79, 89 and discrete bristle arrangements 60, 70, 80, 90 in a stack within a fixture 53 and simultaneously joining them (i.e. via the ring 56 to lock them in place). The bristles 66 are joined along a length by a joint (weld).

7. Claims 24-29, 32-35, 37-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Datta.

Data discloses a method and brush seal comprising plural discrete plates 126 and bristle arrangements 112/125 stacked within a fixture 122 or 214 and then joined together via weld (e.g. Fig. 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 30 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Datta in view of Millener.

Datta discloses a plurality of bristle arrangements 112 having a weld joint 125, a back plate (of 214), a single middle plate 126/226 between one bristle set and a second one, and a front plate (of 214). Millener teaches using a windage cover on the front plate to reduce disturbing forces that may lift bristles from the shaft. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the front part of housing 214 with the windage cover taught by Millener.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 4-3-06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has not pointed out the "subtle differences" between the claims and art. Regardless, it appears the applied art discloses the limitations required by the claims. Also, the wording of claim 12 does not necessarily require the beaded end to be the exposed portion that is then welded.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alison K. Pickard whose telephone number is 571-272-7062. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (10-7:30), with alternate Friday's off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tricia Engle can be reached on 571-272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Alison K. Pickard
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3673

